

Livestock Assistance Grant Program
Arkansas Agriculture Department
#1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing block grants to states to help livestock producers in 20 states partially recover forage production losses due to certain drought conditions experienced during 2006.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department is receiving \$2.0 million under this program for distribution to livestock producers in 39 Arkansas counties. A list of eligible counties appears on the right margin of the attached application form.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department did not select the Arkansas counties eligible for assistance. The counties were selected by USDA using data from the Drought Monitor operated by the National Drought Mitigation Center at Lincoln, Nebraska (<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/> for more information). Only counties that were at drought levels D3 or D4 categories anytime from March 7, 2006 through August 31, 2006 are eligible for assistance.

PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Livestock Assistance Grant Program, a producer must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Suffered livestock forage production losses from drought during the period of March 7, 2006 – August 31, 2006. Examples of losses may include: cost of lost forage, supplemental feeding costs, costs of relocating livestock to new feed supplies, increased feed transportation costs and the cost of emergency water supplies.
- Owned eligible livestock for commercial use as part of a farming operation on March 7, 2006.

Owned the livestock claimed for compensation by this program for at least 30 days.

Eligible Livestock

The following livestock are eligible for this program:

- Adult beef cattle older than 2 years old (cows and bulls)
- Adult dairy cattle older than 2 years old (cows and bulls)
- Replacement cattle (beef and dairy; heifers and bulls)
- Stocker beef cattle (heifers, steers and bulls)
- Adult sheep

Payment:

- Payments will be made on a per head basis to compensate eligible producers for drought-related forage losses incurred for eligible livestock during the period of March 7, 2006 – August 31, 2006.

- Per head payment rates will ultimately be determined by the total number of eligible livestock claimed by all Arkansas applicants and will differ for adult cattle, replacement cattle, stocker cattle and adult sheep based on standard animal units.
- The per head payment rate cannot be determined until all applications are received and processed.
- An eligible producer cannot receive more than \$10,000 in payments under this program.
- Payments cannot exceed actual forage production losses.
- Because of the number of applications anticipated and the amount of funds available, payment will likely cover only partial losses. If payments are claimed for all estimated eligible livestock in all Arkansas eligible counties, the payment rate will be in the range of \$2.15 per animal unit.

Application

Applications for participation in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program must be submitted on the approved Arkansas Agriculture Department form and accompanied by a completed Federal Form W-9. All applications must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, November 15, 2006. Hand delivered applications must be received by the Arkansas Agriculture Department before the close of business Wednesday, November 15, 2006. Incomplete and/or unsigned applications will not be considered. Information provided in the application form will be subject to on-site verification by livestock inspectors of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission (ALPC) or field inspectors of the Arkansas State Plant Board (ASPB). ALPC and ASPB are agencies of the Arkansas Agriculture Department.

- The following will assist in distributing application forms:

The University of Arkansas' Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service county offices, the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association and Arkansas Farm Bureau's county offices. Application forms and information also are available on the following websites: Arkansas Agriculture Department (www.aad.ar.gov), Arkansas Cattlemen's Association (www.arbeef.org) and Arkansas Farm Bureau (www.arfb.com – link Livestock Drought Assistance Grant).

Potential applicants also may contact the Arkansas Agriculture Department directly at #1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205 or telephone 501-683-4851.

- A self-addressed, metered envelope for return to the Department at Little Rock will be available where applications are distributed or when mailed directly from the Department.